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## Education

### Jessamine schools join U of L to fight cancer

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Jessamine County school computers are doing double duty this spring. In addition to normal classroom work, student computers will help researchers at the James Graham Brown Cancer Center of the University of Louisville search for new cancer therapies.

Researchers at Brown Cancer Center will use the extra computing power to facilitate virtual screening of molecular structures useful in structure-based drug design. This approach creates drugs that are specifically targeted at proteins identified as key to tumor growth. The team hopes to increase the effect of cancer-fighting drugs and reduce the negative side affects often associated with treatment of the disease.

"Using the school's computers will greatly increase the amount of work done in the same amount of time, and we will not have to wait years for results" said John Trent, a leading cancer researcher at the Brown Cancer Center. "This will definitely help us develop life-saving drugs and treatments faster."

Jessamine joins Jefferson, Warren and Caldwell county schools in this state-wide computing grid designed to provide university researchers access to vast amounts of computing power. It is an important element of the Kentucky DataSeam Initiative, a not-for-profit company that works with research, education and business development organization to help Kentucky become more competitive in a knowledge-based economy.

"The Kentucky DataSeam Initiative brings computing power to research efforts in the state by putting school computers to work for a statewide benefit," explained KDSI Executive Director Brian Gupton. "Not only do we aid in the discovery of drug therapies, but we help inspire high school students and allow taxpayers to get a little more from their dollar. Everybody wins."

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The Jessamine County Board of Education approved the district's participation in the program during its' January meeting. The district was selected because of its state-of-the art computers and progressive systems. Later this spring students will learn more about the cancer research that is being done when University of Louisville researchers visit the schools.

According to Val Gallutia, director of technology for Jessamine County Schools, deciding to participate in the program was easy. "What an opportunity for Jessamine County to assist with the discovery of new drugs to treat cancer and for our students to get real world exposure to leading-edge research."

Jessamine County School Superintendent Lu Young said, "I am very excited that our district can so easily provide this kind of service and help fight cancer, a disease that has touched the lives of many of our students, staff, and families."